

# The West Virginian

"THE PAPER THAT GOES HOME"

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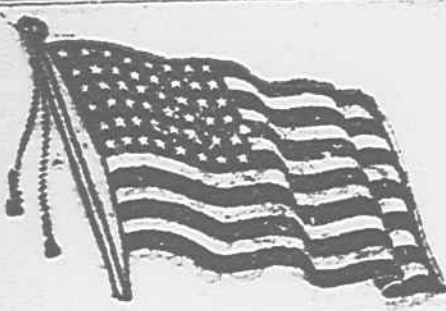
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SATURDAY EVENING, JANUARY 5, 1918.



## CHEERING TO COAL OPERATORS.

**P**RESIDENT WILSON'S address to Congress upon government control of railroads is the first piece of information that has come out of Washington since America got into the war that could honestly be called cheering to the people of this coal region. It is clear that while Mr. Wilson will shrink from nothing that is necessary to the success of the American war effort, he went into government operation of railroads when it was apparent that there was no other way, and that once in it he means to see to it that the private interests disturbed shall be kept safe from unjust injury. This, to put it in Mr. Wilson's own language, is "an obligation of public conscience and of public honor."

It is a reasonable inference from this that if the coal industry after the government operation of transportation clears up the coal car handicap can make good on the promise to supply the coal that is needed, there will be no danger of government interference in fuel production. The government will be perfectly satisfied to let coal alone if the mines under their present management can turn out the fuel the country must have.

If every coal region in the country was as determined patriotically to support the government, no matter what the cost, as this one is and at the same time was as efficiently organized, there would not be the slightest doubt about the future. Government control of the mines, even mine operation for government account, could be dismissed as a possibility that has passed. But we cannot be so sure of the situation in all the districts. Some of them will find it difficult to come up to expectations in production even though they tackle the matter with a patriotism and a zeal equal to any. And in that lies the principal danger.

Here, it seems to us is a place where the National Coal association should do considerable surveying and stock taking. George T. Watson said the other evening at the Coal club dinner that he is sure the mines of the country are able to turn out twice the amount of the national requirements. Good, but the Coal association ought to know where to turn if some of the districts show signs of falling behind in their quota of tonnage. If the problem is approached in that way there never will be any necessity for the government to do what it does not want to do—take over the mines.

## A SECRETARY OF MUNITIONS.

**I**N Great Britain it was found necessary to create a ministry of munitions with broad powers because virtually all industry had to be reorganized and put upon a war basis and it was felt that the War department had its hands full keeping armies in the field and planning campaigns. Industrially Britain has literally been made over and put upon a footing that would have seemed impossible to plant managers and leaders of organized labor in, say, January, 1914.

If Senator Chamberlain's bill creating the office of Secretary of Munitions and giving it cabinet rank has the backing of the administration it may be taken for granted that the men who are organizing the country for war have made up their minds that something almost revolutionary will have to be done for industrial America. The details of the bill offered by the Oregon statesman, who is chairman of the Senate committee on military affairs, will tell the story. When this is written they are not available.

Creating a new cabinet post and calling it the department of munitions is simplicity itself. All Congress has to do is to pass a bill for that purpose. What the result of the legislation will be from a practical standpoint depends upon the powers that are conferred upon the department by the enabling act.

The cabinet itself is an extra-constitutional body, the secretaries who compose it are creations of legislative will, and frequently they are little better than clerks for the national executive. But all of the posts have important powers

which can be and are brought into play when the country is at war. If the Secretary of the Department of Munitions were merely to take off of the hands of the Navy, War, Interior, Commerce and Labor departments the work which they are now doing in the interest of speeding up production of the implements and supplies of warfare it would be a pretty hefty job. And the government would be strengthened, for the five old departments could do their regular work better.

## NATURE'S SOLEMN WARNING.

**Y**ESTERDAY for a few minutes the gas supply of this city was dependent upon the natural pressure from the wells. Every one who uses gas knows what happened. In many places fires went out entirely and all over the territory the amount of gas that was delivered was so small that any one could see that without powerful pumps natural gas would be out of the question as a fuel in this city.

The accident, trifling in itself, and, fortunately, also in its results, which shut down the big compressor gave nature an opportunity to drive home a fact of geology in the large and impressive way which nature frequently affects.

When the stores of natural gas in this section of West Virginia were first tapped, less than a generation ago, the rock pressure was never below 900 pounds. There were wells in which it ran away above that, as men who are still in the prime of life well remember. The big engineering problem was to reduce the pressure to the point where it was safe to use the gas.

Now the gas is going. Soon it will be gone if the people of West Virginia do not take some steps to prevent the further ruthless exploitation of their great natural resource. And the most melancholy thing about the situation is that great quantities of this now highly prized source of heat and energy was deliberately wasted.

Men noted the great pressure and said that there was so much of it that it would last forever. Yet in an annual report issued last year the Secretary of the Interior characterized the man who wastes natural gas as a public enemy. Isn't it about time for the people of West Virginia to stop temporizing about this gas matter and do something? They have started, but the movement ought to be pushed vigorously.

Senator Hardwick, of Georgia, yesterday introduced a resolution calling upon President Wilson to inform the Senate my what "warrants of law or authority" the present cabinet officers hold their offices. The President's action in holding over his advisors without submitting their names for confirmation at the beginning of the present term, Hardwick thinks was "contemptuous disregard" of Senatorial courtesy. That view of the matter is pure bosh, of course. It would be much more reasonable to assume that with Reed, Vardaman, Gore and Hardwick, all of whom are in his own party and all of whom were suspected of being luke warm in their patriotism at the time, Mr. Wilson felt it would be just as well not to take the risk of submitting cabinet appointments of senatorial confirmation.

With contracts in existence for a billion and a quarter dollars worth of ships and but one ship completed the Shipping board has asked Congress for authority to make contracts for almost three-quarters of a billion more. However, the Board as it now exists seems to have worked down to a business program and got rid of all the theorists and obstructionists and as ships are perhaps our most vital need the request should be complied with.

It is apparent as the work of the Senate Military Affairs committee progresses that the war preparations are becoming more efficient every day. Conditions were pretty bad at the start and some very valuable time was lost, but there is nothing in the situation today that will lend encouragement to the foe. When we do get on a war basis we will quickly gather a momentum that will make everything that has gone before seem trifling.

The return home of Rear Admiral Fletcher and of Major General Seibert is interpreted in Washington as a sign that the American commanders in foreign service are being given an absolutely free hand, especially over the officers under them. It required great pressure to free the British war effort of politics, service cliques and social influence, but they did it eventually. We seem to have started at scratch in this matter and if we can keep it up we will be able to save many lives and much money.

In an announcement issued yesterday Director General McAdoo said that "the present serious congestion and actual suffering for the want of coal and other supplies will be greatly improved and may be entirely remedied if every employee will do his utmost in his individual task." That is getting right down to brass tacks, and there ought to be a lot more such talk. Much of the difficulty in getting coal over the roads was due to the fact that the rank and file of railroad men would not take the interest in the movement that the seriousness of the situation demanded. Even an undermanned and undersupplied railroad can handle a lot of traffic when the whole organization from top to bottom is up on its toes.

## SHORT AND SNAPPY

There's no sign of a break in the weatherman's resolution to give us a real, old-fashioned winter.—Connellsville Courier.

Food Administrator Hoover told the Senate investigating committee yesterday he did not believe his earlier warnings of a sugar shortage had anything to do with frightening the people into hoarding. However, there probably is a more effective manner of handling the food-hogs.—Parkersburg Sentinel.

The people who escape being overcome by gas fumes this winter, are in danger of being overcome by gas bills.—Uniontown Evening Genius.

the regular winter sports.

German delegates to the Brest-Litovsk conference posed as conquerors.

But they won't wear that general air at the conference which brings the war to an end.

When they do wake up it is going to take them several generations to get over the shock.

Swell headedness is a terrible disease.

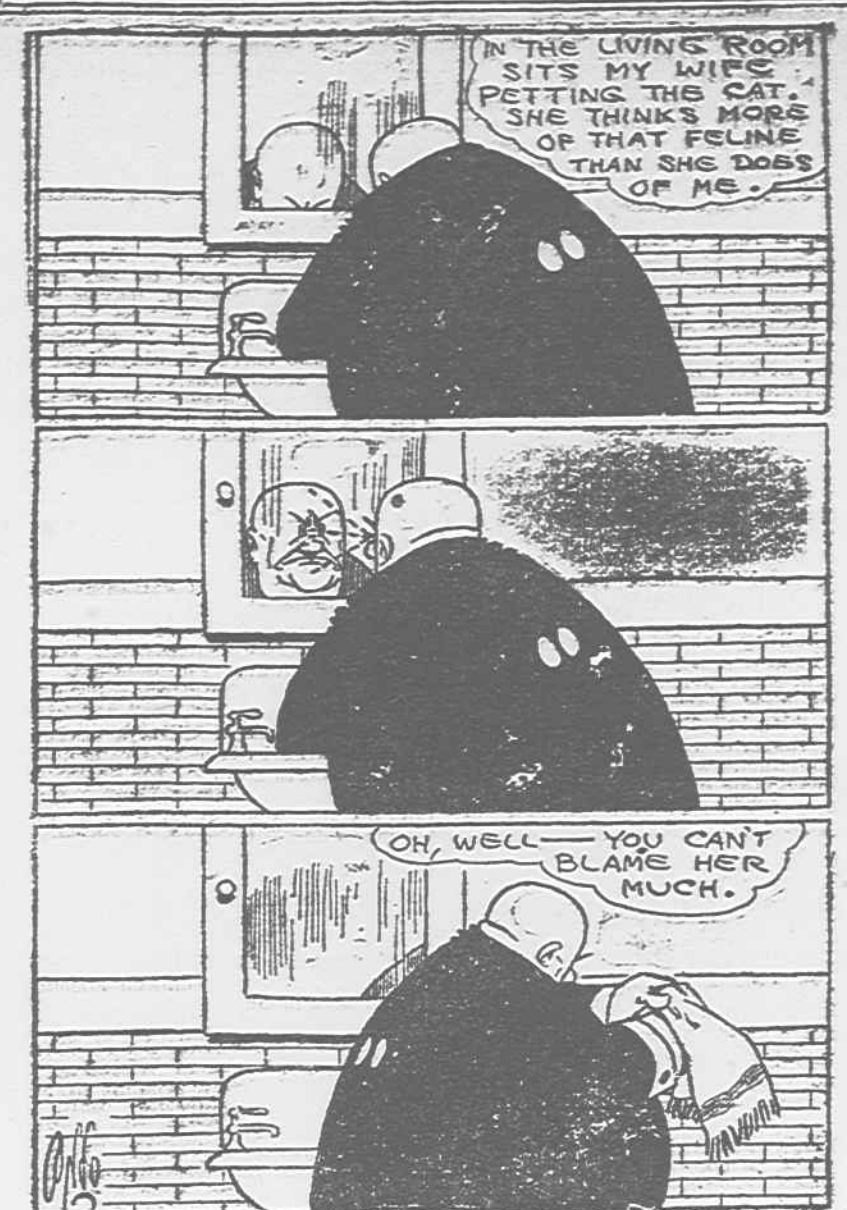
Coal famines are now reported in the hard coal regions.

The full truth about such occurrences is that people did not take the trouble they should have taken to prepare against the rigors of winter.

If people are indifferent and careless they must be prepared to pay for it in one way or another.

# OUTBURSTS OF EVERETT TRUE

(BY CONDO)



# Food And Ships Are America's Big Problem in the World War

By DR. RAY LYMAN WILBUR  
President of Stanford University.

It is surprising how few of our Americans have grasped the significance of the fact that in Australia, a country that has contributed materially to this war, there is, as the result of at least two harvests, piled up a very large quantity of cheap and practically government-owned wheat, much of it in the open air, where it can not be adequately protected from various kinds of damage. Yet we have had an unprecedented call upon our wheat supply in this country and in Canada, resulting in a great increase in prices, due to the fact that the European nations absolutely required wheat for the sustenance of their people. The answer to this apparent anomaly is that it takes three times as long for a ship to go to Australia for food as it does to go to Canada or the United States, and the world has not the shipping available for the long hauls because of the submarine menace and the exigencies of war.

Oil and other food stocks are also piled upon the Asiatic and African coasts awaiting shipment, while we are using fats in our soap because we can not get at these stores. The most pressing problem before the United States and the nations engaged with it in the war against the Hohenzollern dynasty is to supply food and ships and thus defeat the German submarine attack upon the left flank of the western front.

The western front simply must be maintained and must eventually be pushed forward by Americans, or there will be no final conclusion to the great catastrophe.

Many of our people do not seem to realize that we have entered into the great struggle of autocracy versus democracy, and that President Wilson has said that we can not conclude a peace with any but a constituted representative of the German people. That means that we must defeat, and absolutely defeat, the most powerful war lord in all history, who has at his command the most wonderful war machine that has ever been devised. We can not defeat him with a pounding of drums or waving of flags or with any form of national hysteria. We can only do it by concerted action in food saving, shipbuilding, munitions making and soldier training. The sooner we settle down to this terrible task the sooner it will be over. Every day that we delay in our grasp of our responsibilities means the loss of so many hundred or so many thousand of our own boys, who will have to go to the trenches for that much longer period of time. If we can resolutely and successfully meet this problem in the next 12 months, it is probable that we can by that time see what its conclusion is likely to be.

At the present time no man can say what will be the outcome. Germany now occupies the position of a victor. We dare not let her remain so. Every ounce of energy that we can put into the fight we must use, whether it be in the production of food, in the suppression of German propaganda, in the building of ships, in sustaining our embargo, or in carrying on our productive work.

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ment on Tuesday. Mr. Lewis was a member of Worthington Lodge.

**Bank Declares a Dividend.**  
The First National Bank of Worthington at a recent meeting of the directors declared a semi-annual dividend of 2 per cent on the capital stock. The dividend checks were mailed to the shareholders on Jan. 3rd.

**Real Estate Deals.**  
J. M. Hager has recently sold several lots in the W. E. Shaver East Worthington Addition to the Town of Worthington. Good prices were realized.

**Zero Weather With the Gas Off.**  
Worthington thermometers registered 12 degrees below zero on Thursday morning. While the gas supply in Worthington was ample reports from out of town say that many farm houses were without gas during a portion of the day and there was considerable suffering from the cold weather.

**A Painful Accident.**  
Jas. Radloff met with a painful mishap recently. He was carrying a heavy load of coal when in some manner he slipped and fell the coal lighting on his hand and breaking a finger.

**Leaves the Gas Company.**  
Anthony L. Mason who has been an employee of the Hope Natural Gas Company for several years with his headquarters in Worthington has severed his connection with that company. He has not yet determined what business he will engage in in the future.

**PERSONALS.**  
Lawrence G. Sandy, Assistant cashier of the First National Bank who spent the holidays with friends in Pittsburgh and other western Pennsylvania points returned home on Thursday.

Fred M. Billingslea a prominent business man of Worthington was a business caller in Clarksburg on Wednesday.

Scott Smith of Lumberton was a business visitor here on Thursday. Homer B. Corbin, the barber, was a business visitor in Fairmont on Wednesday.

Elias McIntire a venerable resident of Enterprise was a visitor in Worthington on Friday.

Mrs. W. S. Davis of Parrish run was shopping in town on Friday.

# W.V.U. INFORMALS HERE THIS EVENING

Y. M. C. A. Five Expects to be Equal to the Occasion.

A game important in deciding the state basketball championship for the season of 1917-18 will be played on the Y. M. C. A. floor this evening with the West Virginia University Informals and the Fairmont Y. M. C. A. as the opposing teams.

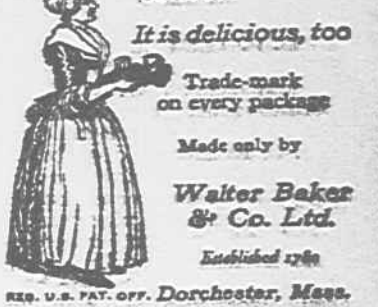
Under the leadership of Coach Mullenix the West Virginia Informals, with the regular W. V. U. lineup will enter the game determined to win. The "Y" team encouraged by the excellent showing against the strong Normal team and the addition of Meredith to their lineup are equally confident of winning.

The game will begin promptly at 8 o'clock.

# Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

# BAKERS COCOA has great food value

THE food value of cocoa has been proven by centuries of use, and dietitians and physicians the world over are enthusiastic in their endorsements of it. It is said to contain more nourishment than beef, in a more readily assimilated form. The choice, however, should be a high-grade cocoa—"Baker's" of course.



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121 Main Street  
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# Money Helps to Make a Merry Christmas Here's the Way to Have Both



# Christmas Savings Club

Hundreds are flocking to join our Christmas Savings Club and you should not let the chance go by

Costs nothing to become a member—no fees, no fines, nothing to lose.

# CLUB NOW FORMING—JOIN

It will enable you to save when you couldn't do it otherwise. You will have money for Christmas or other use and wonder how you accumulated so much.

A little each week regularly. Watch your savings grow.

It's a great co-operative plan. You get your share of the general deposit.

Save for your family and friends. Get others to join.

Act now while you are thinking about it.

CALL FOR PARTICULARS.

# The Peoples National Bank of Fairmont

# RUFF STUFF

Shinnston reports a water famine, due doubtless to cold weather which prevents seepage.

Coming right on top of the drought due to irregular railroad trains and bad roads this is what Artemus Ward would have called 2-mutch.

One of the New York hotels is said to be trying to discourage the old custom of throwing rice at newly weds.

What are we going to throw? Old shoes are becoming too valuable.

Morning Astonishes, says according to the record of time chronicled by the Gregorian calendar the Greek church will celebrate Christmas Monday.

That's our idea of real news.

But it would make old Gregory hot under the collar if he thought any one suspected him of being such a poor mathematician.

Young Connecticut lawyer returned his questionnaire with Deutschland uber alles written across the front of it.

Probably will intern this fresh guy, but what ought to be done to him is to send him to Pershing and have him run into the German lines across No-man's land.

Pittsburgh papers say the coal famine there is acute.

That has happened about this time for the past three winters.

Pittsburgh must think it is one of